IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S):

J.G. Nadeau et al.

SERIAL NO.:

to be assigned

GROUP:

FILING DATE:

March 8, 2004

EXAMINER:

FOR:

PROBES AND METHODS FOR DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

ON: Merch 8, 2004

(NAME OF DEPOSITER)

(SIGNATURE) 3-8-04

Sir:

Prior to the examination, please amend the claims as indicated in the "Amendments to the Claims" beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reg. No. 42,725

Attorney for Applicants

Becton, Dickinson and Company 1 Becton Drive, MC089 Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 201-847-7111 doc#75521